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## SCULPTURED ROCK AT TREMPELEAU, WISCONSIN.

BY T. H. LEWIS.

LAST November, whilst surveying mounds in the upper Mississippi valley, my attention was called to some rock sculptures located about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west from Trempeleau, Wisconsin. There is at the point in question an exposed ledge of the Potsdam Sandstone extending nearly one-eighth of a mile along the east side of the lower mouth of the Trempeleau river, now known as the bay. Near its north end there is a projection extending out about seven feet from the top of the ledge, and overhanging the base about ten feet. The base of the ledge is forty feet back from the shore, and the top of the cliff at this point is thirty feet above the water. On the face of the projection, and near the top, are the sculpture figures referred to.

No drawings or descriptions of these fine specimens of ancient work having ever been published, I thought it best to copy them for the inspection of archæologists in a printed form. Whatever distinct markings were originally cut upon the face of this rock are doubtless there now, and the group as traced is complete and entire, and in its primitive condition, for it has not been mutilated by man nor perceptibly injured by exposure to the elements. Great care was taken to obtain correct tracings, the size of nature, and these having been reduced by pantograph the copy remains an accurate facsimile of the original.

The centre part of the rock projection on which these figures appear, faces to the west, the sides falling back at a somewhat obtuse angle to the parent ledge. Owing to the horizontal extent of the space covered by the carvings they cannot well be shown in one connected drawing, so they are divided here for convenience into three groups of nearly equal size. The following detailed description accounts for all the separate forms, and they are numbered in their natural order from left (north) to right.

## NORTH FACE.

Fig. 1 is an outspread hand  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

## WEST (FRONT) FACE.

Fig. 2 is an outspread hand  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. The thumb is cut through the angle of the rock and ends on the north face. The middle finger also extends to the top surface of the rock.

Fig. 3 is an outspread hand  $17\frac{1}{4}$  inches long. The two hands (2 and 3) are apparently right and left hands, the little finger of one overlapping that of the other.

Fig. 4 is an outspread hand nearly  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

Figs. 5, 5, are five so-called canoes. They are somewhat crescent shaped, but all vary more or less in outline.

Fig. 6 has the same form as the preceding, but the additional upright portion overlaps it.

Figs. 7 and 8 are also of the same form as 5, but 7 is cut in the bottom of 8.

Fig. 9 probably represents a fort, and its length is  $18\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Fig. 10 is a nondescript, and it partly overlaps 8.

Fig. 11 is a nondescript four-legged animal. Its length in a straight line from the end of the nose to the tip of the tail is  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Fig. 12 may be intended to represent a foot, but possibly it may be a hand. It is  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length.

## SOUTH FACE.

Fig. 13 is an outspread hand a little over 13 inches long.

Fig. 14 undoubtedly represents a foot, and it is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

Figs. 15, 15, are of the same class as Figs. 5.

Fig. 16 has the appearance of representing a bone, although somewhat distorted.

Fig. 17 is an outspread hand nearly 14 inches long.

Fig. 18 is an outspread hand about  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches long.

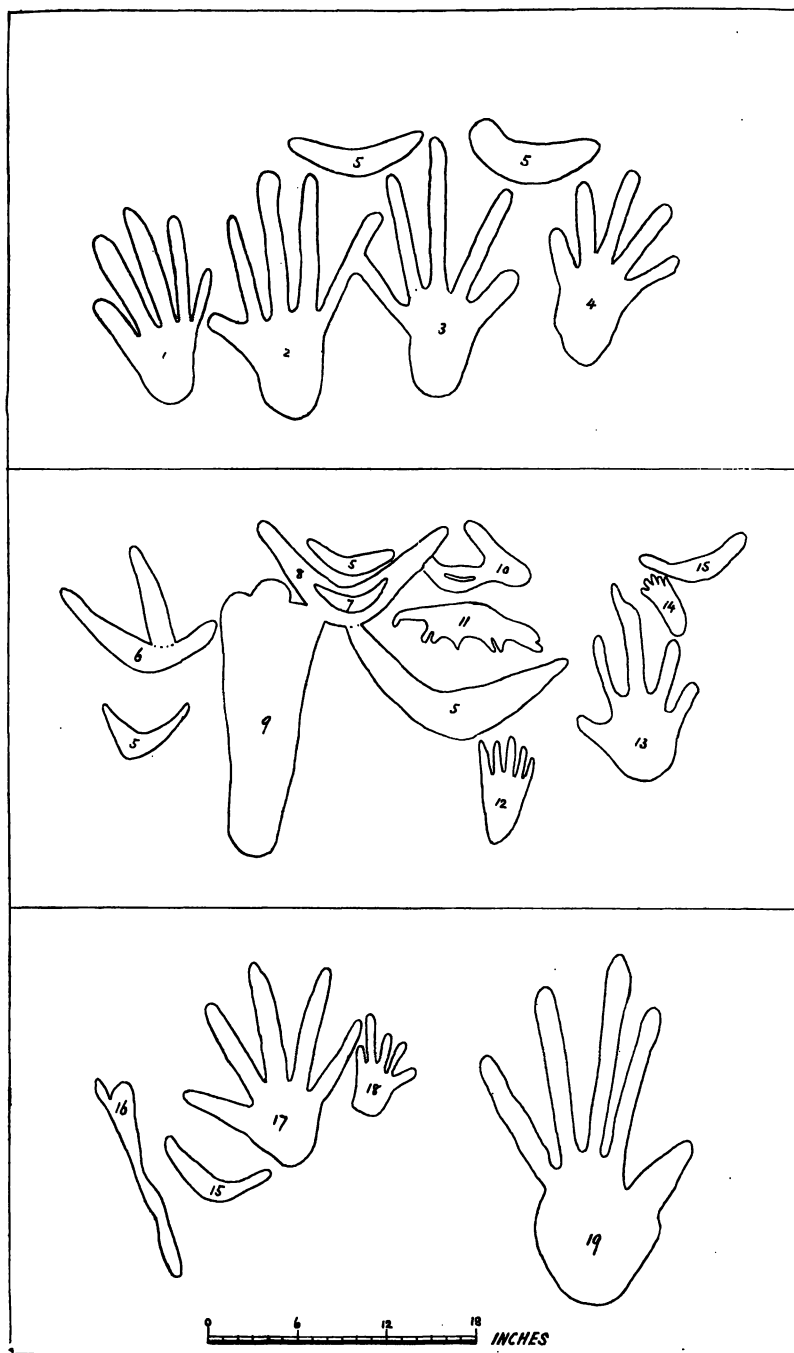
Fig. 19 is the largest hand, and deserves a more particular description. The palm is 10 inches long and  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide. The length of the thumb is  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches, of the index finger  $10\frac{3}{4}$

inches, of the middle finger  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches, of the ring finger  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and of the little finger  $9\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

These figures are sunk in throughout—intaglios—instead of being mere outlines, and vary in depth from a quarter of an inch to fully one inch. Although the surface of the rock is rough the grooves were rubbed perfectly smooth after they were pecked or chiseled out.

Such is a concise account of one of the most interesting antiquities of the country lying between the Trempeleau and Black rivers, and I shall feel gratified if by my instrumentality it shall be rescued from oblivion.

PLATE XXXVII.



SCULPTURED ROCK AT TREMPLEAU, WISCONSIN.